

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

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R 311017Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3513
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

CONFIDENTIAL PARIS 22278

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, FR, CN
SUBJECT: COMOROS

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH CHARGE JULY 30, STATE
SECRETARY FOR OVERSEAS DEPARTMENTS AND TERRITORIES
STIRN REMARKED THAT THE COMOROS PROBLEM IS ONE WITH
WHICH THE FRENCH WILL JUST HAVE TO LIVE. THE SPLIT
IN THE ISLANDS WAS THE LAST THING THE GOF HAD WANTED,
BUT THE GOF COULD NOT DISREGARD THE WISHES OF 40,000
PEOPLE WHO DISLIKE THE PEOPLE OF THE OTHER THREE
ISLANDS AND WANT TO REMAIN FRENCH. AFTER ALL, HE
SAID, AN ISLAND MENTALITY DOES EXIST, AFRICAN OBEISANCE
TO TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY NOTWITHSTANDING.

2. THE FRENCH ARE WILLING TO COOPERATE WITH THE
COMOROS REPUBLIC AND HOPE TO ESTABLISH A SORT OF
COMMON MARKET BETWEEN IT AND MAYOTTE. STIRN
RECOGNIZED THAT IT WOULD BE POLITICALLY DIFFICULT FOR
THE COMORAN GOVERNMENT TO ACCEPT SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT,
BUT SAW NO ALTERNATIVE TO MAKING THE EFFORT.

GAMMON

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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